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WASHINGTON
DAILY NEWS

MAR 2 8 1964

Cites Own Security File

No Witch Hunts at State, Rusk Assures

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Secretary of State Dean Rusk intends to make his department as secure against foreign agents as possible but he will not tolerate any witch hunts.

"I am an American Secretary of State," he said, with special emphasis on the word "American." He pledged to cope with security problems in a manner consistent with American standards.

He was responding to a question about recent newspaper reports that his department and other Government agencies were filled with communist spies and subversives.

OFF THE CUFF

He didn't answer the reports specifically. But in an emphatic off-the-cuff comment he gave assurances that the difficult problem of security would be handled—while he is Secretary—without "losing our heads."

He "confessed" that his security file contains one item that some rigidly minded security officials might consider "derogatory information."

Once when Mr. Rusk was filling out a Government security form, one of the questions was whether any member of his family ever had advocated or attempted to overthrow the Government. His answer was "yes."

CIVIL WAR

Asked to explain, he pointed out that both his grandfathers fought for the Confederacy in the Civil War.

Mr. Rusk apologized for citing this amusing incident in discussing a deadly serious problem—security—at his news conference yesterday.

Dean Rusk, as he answered questions at the press conference.

He pointed out that every nation faces the same problem — of foreign governments trying to penetrate its most sensitive operations with agents and spies. The State Department is one of the most vulnerable because, he said, about 97 per cent of its employes above the housekeeping staff are in varying degrees of sensitive positions. In most other departments the percentage is only about five.

CONTINUAL CHECK

Because of this, the State Department conducts a continual security check on its people.

Mr. Rusk said he was satisfied that the State Department got a very high standard of conduct from its employes. He emphasized that constant vigilance, however, was necessary.

"We are not going to play around with the element of security," He said. "But we are not going to lose our heads about it." (Editorial, Page 8.)

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